

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as shown below.

At page 1, line 1, please delete "TITLE OF THE INVENTION"

At page 1, line 2, please replace "Lightning Damage Protection for Composite Aircraft"
5 with --**LIGHTNING DAMAGE PROTECTION FOR COMPOSITE AIRCRAFT**--

At page 1, line 5, please replace "This invention relates to" with --The present
embodiments relate to--

At page 1, line 18, please replace " $(2 \times 10^5 \text{ amp})$ " with -- $(2 \times 10^5 \text{ amp})$ --

At page 1, line 19, please replace " $(2 \times 10^6 \text{ amp}^2 \text{ sec})$ " with -- $(2 \times 10^6 \text{ amp}^2 \text{ sec})$ --

10 At page 2, line 25, please replace "In accordance with the present invention," with --In
accordance with the present embodiments,--

At page 3, line 21, please replace "protection system of the present invention" with --
protection system of the present embodiments--

Please amend page 3, lines 25-27 as follows: --Figure 1 is a top plan view of a blended-
15 wing-body ("BWB") aircraft incorporating ~~an exemplary one~~ embodiment of a the present
lightning damage protection system ~~in accordance with the present invention~~;--

Please amend page 4, lines 4-6 as follows: --Figure 1 is a top plan view of a composite,
BWB-type of aircraft 1 incorporating ~~an exemplary one~~ embodiment of a the present lightning
damage protection system 100 ~~in accordance with the present invention~~. Although the system of
20 the ~~invention~~ the present embodiments is shown in conjunction with a BWB type--

Please amend page 4, line 12 as follows: --light weight matrix. ~~Of importance, the~~ The
panels are typically made, or "laid up," separately, and--

Please amend page 4, line 20 as follows: --a "Faraday cage" (illustrated by the ~~bold~~ solid
lines) defined on the exterior surface--

25 Please amend page 5, line 14 as follows: --electrically conductive material, titanium (or
alloys thereof) ~~constitute~~ is a preferred material,--

Please amend page 5, lines 24-26 as follows: --~~An exemplary~~ Fig. 4 illustrates and
example embodiment of a method whereby the respective adjacent ends of the exterior splice
plates 4 can be electrically bonded to each other to form the continuous, conductive elements of
30 the grid 100 ~~is illustrated in the partial cross-sectional view of Fig. 4.~~--

Please amend page 6, line 2 as follows: --the adjacent ends of the plates[[],] and ~~thence,~~
through an electrically conductive bonding strap 12--

Please amend page 6, lines 8-9 as follows: --Those of skill in this art will also appreciate
an additional advantage of the present conductive grid 100 ~~of the present invention.~~--

5 Please amend page 6, line 15 as follows: --strikes, the present conductive cage 100 ~~of the~~
~~invention~~ is particularly advantageous--

10 Please amend page 6, lines 20-24 as follows: --configurations and methods of
implementation of the present reliable, low-cost lightning damage protection system 100 ~~of the~~
~~present invention~~ without departing from its spirit and scope. Accordingly, the scope of the
present ~~invention~~ system should not be limited to the particular embodiments illustrated and
described herein, as they are merely ~~exemplary in nature~~ examples--